

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5105

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, GE, UR

SUBJ: EAST GERMAN PREMIER VISITS BANGLADESH

1. HORST SINDERMAN, CHAIRMAN OF EAST GERMAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, VISITED DACCA NOVEMBER 26-29. DURING HIS STAY, HE AND HIS ENTOURAGE WERE TREATED TO THE STANDARD FARE FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, I.E., WREATH-LAYING AT THE MARTYRS MONUMENT AT 25-MILE DISTANT SAVAR, DINNERS, SIGHTSEEING AND FORMAL TALKS ON "MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST" WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN AND, STANDING IN FOR THE FLU-STRICKEN PRIMIN, INDUSTRIES MINISTER SYED NAZRUL ISLAM.

2. A READING OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT SUGGESTS THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF BUSINESS TO TRANSACT WITH THE OTHER, AND THUS THEY TALKED ABOUT THE WORLD AT LARGE. THERE WERE, OF COURSE, THE USUAL PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, AND BOTH SIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS:  
--"UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR COMMON FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES;  
--VOICED "SATISFACTION" WITH THE "SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY PEOPLES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM;"  
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--ASSURED THE DRV AND THE PRG OF THEIR SUPPORT;

--STRENGTHENED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE "PROCESS OF DETENTE;"  
--CONDEMNED THE "FASCIST DICTATORSHIP" IN CHILE;  
--"RENEWED THEIR CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S POLICY OF AGGRESSION  
AGAINST THE ARAB STATES" AND SAW A "JUST AND DURABLE PEACE" AS  
BEING DEPENDENT ON THE RESTORATION OF THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF  
THE PALESTINIANS;  
--"REVEALED AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON THE GROWING AND IMPORTANT  
ROLE OF THE POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT;" AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE  
"MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION" MADE BY BANGLADESH TOWARD NORMALIZATION  
IN SOUTH ASIA, AND STRESSED THAT RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING  
PROBLEMS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN IS CENTRAL TO THE PROCESS.

BANGLADESH ALSO EXPLAINED TO THE GDR DELEGATION ITS DESIRE TO  
HAVE THE INDIAN OCEAN BE A "ZONE OF PEACE." (COPIES OF THE  
JOINT COMMUNIQUE BEING SENT BY TRANSMITTAL SLIP.)

3. THERE WERE TWO SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. UNDER THE TERMS  
OF THE EXISTING CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE  
GDR, THE EAST GERMANS OFFERED A NUMBER OF NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
EXTENSIONS OF EXISTING SCHOLARSHIPS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE GDR  
OFFERED A CREDIT FOR THE IMPORT BY BANGLADESH OF EAST GERMAN  
MACHINERY AND PLANT REPORTEDLY VALUED AT THE EQUIVALENT OF  
APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION; THE CREDIT IS REPAYABLE IN BANGLADESH  
GOODS OVER A PERIOD OF ELEVEN YEARS AT AN ANNUAL INTEREST RATE  
OF 2.5 PERCENT.

4. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF SINDERMANN WAS GIVEN THE USUAL EXTENSIVE  
COVERAGE IN PRESS, RADIO AND TV, AND WAS UNSURPRISINGLY DESCRIBED  
AS "SUCCESSFUL." THE WEST GERMANS HERE IN DACCA HAVE CONTENDED,  
HOWEVER, THAT THE VISIT WAS AGREED TO ONLY GRUDGINGLY BY THE  
BENGALIS AND THAT THE OFFER OF THE CREDIT WAS A NECESSARY PRE-  
CONDITION TO THEIR AGREEMENT. THIS RELUCTANCE, OVERCOME BY A  
CONCRETE EARNEST, APPEARS TO HAVE ITS ROOTS IN BENGALIS DIS-  
APPOINTMENT WITH THE RELATIVELY UNFORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OF THE  
SOVIET UNION AND ITS FRIENDS TO PLEASE FOR ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING  
THE PAST SUMMER'S FLOODING. IT IS ALSO SAID TO REFLECT A GROWING  
DESIRE BY BANGLADESH TO PLACE A MEASURE OF DISTANCE BETWEEN  
ITSELF AND THE SOVIET UNION AND, OF COURSE, THOSE CLOSELY  
IDENTIFIED WITH THE RUSSIANS, RECOGNIZING THAT WESTERN DONOR  
COUNTRIES HAVE MORE TO OFFER BANGLADESH.  
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## Message Attributes

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